

Rev J A Stephan  
 THE BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS,  
 THE SUN BUILDING, No. 1315 F Street.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 1887

Dear M<sup>r</sup> W. M. Drexel.

Your welcome letter with enclosures is received. I thank you for your long, plain and good explanations. I think that you greatly overestimate the cost. It will not cost in the long run more than any other schools. I wrote to the Archbishops of Chicago and Milwaukee, and the Bishops of Fort-Wayne and Peoria, and received encouraging answers from them. Bishop Dwenger of Fort-Wayne has just removed his orphans from the farm to Fort-Wayne and left the orphan farm vacant. He wishes to sell it to us. There are a good many buildings on it, also a chapel etc. and about 200 acres of land. It is 73 miles from Chicago on the Railroad, in a good location, with plenty of wood and water. The buildings with little repair will do. The Bishop will sell the place cheap. I think we can buy the whole place from \$12,000 to \$18,000. Furnitures we can buy cheap there. The whole thing, including farm, buildings, furnitures, trams, cows etc. will not exceed \$25,000.00 and perhaps less. —

Father Willard has to go to New York on business this week and will stop in Philadelphia to see you. I shall talk it fully over with him and he can give you all my views better than I can write them down. —

Archbishop Riccio applied for help for St. Francis Ind. mission Lake Co. California, where the Franciscan fathers of St. Louis Mo. established an Ind. mission 2 months ago. I will get a contract for the school January next. —

Rev Porvitz S. J. writes to me under date Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> that he had 75 children in school

and that he did not get his pay for the last quarter, this is his own fault! He gave his report to the agent, a month ago, as he writes - and left it there instead of getting it signed and sending it to me who is the responsible contractor. The said vouchers have neither arrived in this or the Indian office up to this hour. He also states that the agent is hostile to him and shall have said the fathers should and would not have a contract after the 1<sup>st</sup> of July next. Instead of being kind, sociable & prudent, they go according to their own notions and whims and when every thing is upset, they throw the bundle of troubles seasoned with malice, before our most command to fix the matters up with the Government. -

Now to your questions:

1. Fort Berthold, no necessity for a school, as the Govt has taken all the children of school age to Fort Stevenson. Govt Ind. school and room is left for more. Five years ago I requested Bishop Marty to send a missionary to Fort Berthold, but the cool answer was: wait a while. Now when it is too late, we want to do some thing.
2. have written to Bp. Brondel to give me full explanations about all his Ind. schools, and according to his answer, which I shall forward to you, the decision will be made.
3. the meaning of the payments at Fort Belknap agency is entirely different from your idea, likewise the one at Fort Peck.
4. Alaska contracts are lost.
5. Will send \$100. to Rev. Bennett if he answers me favorable to my questions.
6. A boarding school at Portoro or Peavine should be established.
7. the bills, as you requested to be sent, <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> enclosed ~~herewith~~. If any other bill is desired, I shall forward it with pleasure.
8. Will send \$300. (or may be \$600) as you requested, to Rev. Pius. He has got notification since Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> that 30 bedsteads were shipped to him.

NB: -